

Other news:

Schlumberger has hired Bechtel Environmental — a subsidiary of the well-known international mega-corporation — to administer the sediment sampling of OUII (Twelve Mile Creek and Lake Hartwell). The work plan for this project is available at all the local repositories (Clemson University Library, Easley and Pickens public libraries). This document is a model of clarity and completeness. Reading the first fifty pages of it provides the clearest available overview of the history of the Sangamo sites and the results of the various studies done on PCB concentrations in sediments and fish.

On Thursday, January 9, Toxics Watch will host a public meeting at Clemson City Hall at which DHEC will explain the results of the testing they did on residential water taps. There has been some delay in getting this information to the public because some of EPA's initial samples were not processed correctly; retesting is under debate now. EPA has been invited to present their findings as well, but we do not know yet if they will attend. Jill Watkins, environmental engineer for Region IV, says EPA would like to attend our meeting, but she is not sure their budget will allow them to travel to Pickens County.

Please get involved.

Toxics Watch made inroads in 1991 in establishing a citizens' voice for environmental concerns in Pickens and Oconee counties, but we need your voice, too. Across the United States, communities like ours are discovering that a strong community group is instrumental in getting hazardous waste sites cleaned up. An EPA representative from Atlanta claims the Sangamo site is one of the largest cleanups ever undertaken by EPA Region IV. Show you care. Get involved. This is your backyard.

The Executive Committee (Jeannie Davis, Jerry Griggs, Chris Kempton, Janet Masters, Judy Melton, and Elisa Sparks) continues to meet (mostly) every second Thursday. If you would like to join us or have questions or information for us, please contact Jeannie Davis at 878-5013. If you would like to contribute to Toxics Watch (contributions are not tax-deductible), or add your name to our mailing list, contact us at: P.O. Box 482, Pickens, SC 29671.

Toxics Watch
P.O. Box 482
Pickens, SC 29671



Craig Zeller
U.S. EPA Region IV
345 Courtland St. NE
Atlanta, GA 30365



Meeting Notice: Thursday, January 9 at 7 pm
Clemson City Hall (behind Clemson police station)
Speaker: Doug Johns, SC DHEC
Topic: Update on the investigation into PCB-contaminated drinking water in the
Easley/Central water district and related water systems

Toxics Watch
P.O. Box 482
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Dear Toxics Watch Member/Friend,

Been wondering what's happening with Toxics Watch?

In a word, we've been waiting...

...waiting for EPA, Schlumberger, and the Department of Justice to sign a Consent Decree for Operable Unit I—the “next step” that would take the PCB-contaminated land-based dumpsites one step closer to cleanup. Christmas Day 1991 marked the passage of one full year since EPA signed its Record of Decision (R.O.D) for Operable Unit I. That means they're now seven months past the federal deadline for the next step...

...waiting to hear the results from the EPA/DHEC survey of possible PCB contamination in the residential water taps of the Easley/Central Water District and related water systems...

...waiting to see if anything will be done about the PCB-contaminated sites left out of OUI — the Midway Dump and the closed Easley/Pickens landfill...

...and waiting to hear when EPA will be coming back to Pickens County to discuss the findings of their “preliminary” health assessment of OUII (Lake Hartwell and Twelve Mile Creek).

All the waiting aside, did Toxics Watch do anything in 1991? You bet.

A Toxics Watch investigation of Pickens County drinking water records early in 1991 was one of the triggers that launched the DHEC/EPA investigation of PCB contamination in the Easley/Central Water District. On September 12, 1991 at Clemson City Hall, Toxics Watch hosted a presentation by Doug Johns, District Manager of South Carolina DHEC on plans for testing targeted residential water taps in the Upstate for PCB contamination. Contact us for a map of the areas which were tested, and/or **come to the meeting at Clemson City hall on Thursday, January 9 at 7 pm, to hear about the results.**

We finally pestered EPA into posting fluorescent pink chemical contamination signs around the land sites constituting OUI. At least, the signs are posted at those sites we have checked. If you're aware of a site that is not clearly posted, please call Jeannie Davis at 878-5013.

We met with Bart Reedy, Remedial Project Director of OUI, at Liberty City Hall on April 11, 1991, and explained in detail our concerns with the limitations and inaccuracies of the Remedial Investigation and Record of Decision for OUI. We focused on the lack of any sampling or remediation for the heavy metal contamination which had been clearly indicated by previous research on the sites. On September 10, 1991, EPA Region IV issued a public statement that they were amending the R.O.D. to include the need to test for heavy metal contamination in the soils and groundwater of the land-based sites.